[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

PRESIDENT: Are you sure that he is the only Roman Catholic?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes, Sir; he is the only Roman Catholic in the two Colleges referred to.

*Beggar Problem in Travancore.*

70. MR. P. T. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): (*a*) How many beggars are there in the State?

(*b*) How many of them are born subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja, and how many outsiders?

(*c*) How many of these are able-bodied men fit to work, and how many unable to earn their livelihood on account of physical infirmities, diseases, etc.?

(*d*) Are not the Government aware that these beggars are wandering from house to house causing nuisance to the public?

(*e*) Where do these beggars live? Have the Government made any provision for housing these poor people?

(*f*) Do the Government know that many of them die miserably on the streets and roads?

(*g*) Will the Government be pleased to introduce a Bill prohibiting professional beggary and the immigration of beggars into Travancore, and laying down measures for the alleviation of the miseries of *bonæ fide* beggars?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The total number of beggars including vagrants, witches, wizards, etc., is 5,770, as per the census of 1921.

(*b*) and (*c*) Government have no information.

(*d*) Some beggars do so.

(*e*) Government have no information as to their abodes. Government have made no special provision for their accommodation.

(*f*) Government have no information.

(*g*) Government do not propose to undertake any such legislation at present.

*Examination Qualifications for Government Service.*

71. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they consider the Vernacular Higher and the Vernacular School Leaving Examinations as equal in value for preference and promotions in the public service;

(*b*) whether all those who have passed the Vernacular Higher Examination are started on the same pay in the Education Department; and

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(*c*) whether any distinction is made between those who have passed the English School Leaving Certificate Examination and those who have passed the Vernacular Higher Examination in the Vernacular branch of the Education Department?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) and (*b*) The answer is in the negative. The former is considered a higher qualification than the latter.

(*c*) The answer is in the affirmative.

*Lease of Liquor Shops under the Farming System and the Independent Shop System.*

72. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the actual revenue they have been receiving for the last four years from the taluks (except the Devicolam Division) where the farming system has been in vogue;

(*b*) the additional revenue which they have derived by the auction sale of the shops for the vend of toddy in the area to be brought under the independent shop system during the next biennial contract; and

(*c*) the staff employed at present in the area under the farming system and the expenditure on the same, the additional staff, if any, recommended by the Commissioner on account of the introduction of the new system, and the cost entailed by such increase of staff?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) A statement* giving the required information is laid on the table.

(*b*) The rentals received for 355 toddy shops which have been sold out of the 404 toddy shops sanctioned for the area brought under the independent shop system, amount to Rs. 2,54,905 per annum. Full information in regard to the additional revenue is not therefore available at present.

(*c*) A statement† giving the required information is laid on the table.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it not a fact that at the recent auction—

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I have to qualify that answer by a sentence. The printed answer is not complete. A reduction of Rs. 2,700 per annum was made at the last budget meeting of the Council in Karkatakam.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): With regard to these toddy shops?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): With regard to the additional hands. We find in appendix IV certain figures given. Rs. 2,700 will have to be deducted out of the total expenditure on account of the additional hands given there.

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* *Vide* appendix III—Page 520 † *Vide* appendix IV—Page 521.

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